SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 111

Senator Theis offered the following resolution:

A resolution to urge the Governor to allow elective procedures in hospitals and to allow healthcare providers the freedom to determine their capacity to handle elective procedures.

Whereas, As part of the response to the COVID-19 outbreak, Governor Whitmer issued Executive Order 2020-17 on March 20, 2020, placing temporary restrictions on non-essential medical and dental procedures in Michigan hospitals and other health facilities to protect public health and ensure the availability of healthcare resources to address COVID-19. Non-essential procedures are those not necessary "to address a medical emergency or to preserve the health and safety of a patient," such as elective surgeries; and

Whereas, The Governor issued Executive Order 2020-59 on April 24, 2020, to extend the stay-at-home order through May 15, 2020,
while also easing some restrictions on businesses, such as allowing

garden stores, nurseries, and lawn care, pest control, and

landscaping operations to resume operation. The order did not ease
the temporary restrictions on elective procedures in hospitals or
other health facilities; and

Whereas, While postponing some elective procedures, such as

group replacements and bariatric surgery, may not pose an immediate
health risk to patients, many procedures are still needed to
preserve patients’ quality of life and long-term well-being. Health
and hospital organizations, such as the American Hospital

Association, have issued standards to guide the safe resumption of
elective surgeries and other procedures; and

Whereas, More than a dozen states have determined it is safe
and appropriate to ease their restrictions on elective medical
treatments as the stress on their healthcare systems from COVID-19
abates; and

Whereas, As cases of COVID-19 continue to fall in Michigan,
resuming elective medical procedures, while continuing to ensure
the health and safety of patients, is a key step in reopening the
economy and improving the financial stability of hospitals, their
workers, and the economy as a whole; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the Governor to allow
elective procedures in hospitals and to allow healthcare providers
the freedom to determine their capacity to handle elective
procedures; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
Governor.